

Having described the invention, we claim:

1. A system for upgrading a mobile data acquisition device, said system comprising:

a software upgrade for use with the mobile data acquisition device, the software upgrade being located on a software management computer,

the software management computer transferring the software upgrade from the software management computer to a local communications computer,

the local communications computer transferring the software upgrade to the mobile data acquisition device, the local communications computer storing the software upgrade for transfer to other mobile data acquisition devices.

2. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the software management computer stores a master bill of materials file for the software upgrade.

3. The system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the local communications computer stores a local bill of materials file for the software upgrade.

4. The system as set forth in claim 3 wherein the master bill of materials file and the local bill of materials file are compared for determining a version of the software upgrade held by the mobile data acquisition device.

5. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the mobile data acquisition device verifies a version of the software upgrade held by the mobile data acquisition device.

6. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the mobile data acquisition device reboots subsequent to obtaining the software upgrade.

7. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the software upgrade is the upgraded part of an entire software application.

8. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the mobile data acquisition device maintains a staging area for temporarily storing the software upgrade.

9. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the mobile data acquisition device restores a prior version of the software upgrade if the verification of the software upgrade fails.

10. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the mobile data acquisition device marks a staging area as an execution area and marks an execution area as a staging area.

11. A system for upgrading a software application, said system comprising:

- a data acquisition device for use with the software application;

- a software management computer for transmitting an upgrade of the software application from said software management computer to said data acquisition device,

- a local communications computer for interconnecting said data acquisition device and said software management computer, said local communications computer transferring the upgrade from said software management computer to said data acquisition device,

said local communications computer also transferring the upgrade to at least one other data acquisition device.

12. The system as set forth in claim 11 wherein said data acquisition device initiates transfer of the upgrade of the software application from said software management computer through said local communications computer.

13. The system as set forth in claim 11 wherein said local communications computer stores the upgrade for other data acquisition devices.

14. The system as set forth in claim 11 wherein said data acquisition device acknowledges receipt of the upgrade from said software management computer.

15. A computer program product for upgrading a software application, said computer program product comprising:

a first instruction for initiating communication between a mobile device and a software management computer;

a second instruction for initiating transfer of

an upgraded portion of the software application from the software management computer to the mobile device; and

a third instruction for updating a master bill of materials index file by the software management computer reflecting the upgrade of the software application.

16. The computer program product as set forth in claim 15 further including a fourth instruction for transferring the upgrade through a local communications computer.

17. The computer program product as set forth in claim 15 further including a fourth instruction for rebooting the mobile device.

18. The computer program product as set forth in claim 15 further including a fourth instruction for activating the upgrade of the software application on the mobile device.

19. The computer program product as set forth in claim 15 further including a fourth instruction for

maintaining a staging area on the mobile device for the upgrade.

20. The computer program product as set forth in claim 15 further including a fourth instruction for upgrading the software application on another mobile device.